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7704/3 S-17.3

Executive Registry

76-7704/4A

1 June 1976

The Honorable Robert Ellsworth
The Deputy Secretary of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Bob:

Thanks for your thoughtful letter of 24 May concerning our recent publication on Soviet defense expenditures in rubles. I agree that a good start has been made and that a strong effort should be continued to explore the many interesting and important questions that you and others have suggested.

Future NIE's will cover many, if not all, of the excellent questions your letter raised.

Incidentally, I was very pleased with the generally straightforward way the press reported the results of the study, and though my fingers are still crossed, no one has yet tried to distort the report for political advantage.

I really do appreciate your kind words about this report. An enormous amount of very serious effort went into this.

Sincerely, .

/s/ George Bush

George Bush

EWProctor:fbr

Rewritten: DCI/kgf/1 June 1976

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

The Honorable Robert Ellsworth
The Deputy Secretary of Defense
Washington, D. C. 20301

Dear Bob:

Thanks for your thoughtful letter of 24 May concerning our recent publication on Soviet defense expenditures in rubles. I agree that a good start has been made and that a strong effort should be continued to explore the many interesting and important questions that you and others have suggested.

Answering these questions--because of their inherent difficulty--will demand more analytical resources in addition to the time you note in your letter. It is clear to me that the CFI should address itself to the problem of increasing the resources devoted to analysis not only on this subject but also on many others as well.

Incidentally, I was very pleased with the generally straightforward way the press reported the results of the study.

Sincerely,

George Bush
Director

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Letter to The Honorable Robert Ellsworth
From The Director of Central Intelligence Agency
Subject: CIA Estimates of Soviet Defense Spending

25X1A

CONCUR:



Deputy Director for Intelligence

27 JUL 1975

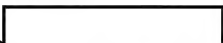
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